Here at the Smithsonian...

A Series of Short Features for Television

1988 SEASON - VOLUME VII

Edition 1

"Climbing Jacob's Ladder" 3:38

They have served as houses of worship, havens from slavery and the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement.... The 250-year story of the Black church -- one of America's most enduring institutions -- is told at the Smithsonian's Anacostia museum.

"Old And New Traditions" 3:20

American Indian cultures have been studied and documented by the Smithsonian for more than a century. Here's a look at some contemporary products of those cultures, some which are featured in an exhibition of Native American Art at the Renwick Gallery.

"From Reliable Sources" 3:38

The Smithsonian's Archives of American Art, which contains the largest collection of letters and personal papers of American artists anywhere, is an invaluable resource for scholars and researchers across the United States.

"A More Perfect Union" 3:48

As part of the Smithsonian's recognition of the bicentennial of the United States Constitution, a new exhibition provides a sobering look at a time in American history when democracy went awry -- the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Edition 2

"Magellans of The Air" 3:42

The National Air and Space Museum houses a number of planes which have set records flying around the world, including the Voyager, which did it in 1986 without making a single stop!

"From Field To Factory" 3:23

A Smithsonian exhibition chronicles the "great migration" that occurred early in the 20th century, when thousands of blacks from the rural South journeyed to the industrial centers of the North searching for work.

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Edition 2 continued

"Spineless Wonders" 3:50

A new exhibition at the National Zoo gives visitors a chance to get to know some ants, cuttlefish, and octopus -- all members of the group known as invertebrates, which make up more than 98% of all life on earth.

"King Herod's Dream" 3:38

On the coast of present-day Israel lay the ruins of Caesarea Maritima, the magnificent port city built by King Herod the Great around 10 B.C. Recently, archeologists have unearthed rich evidence of the Hebrew, Roman, Christian, and Islamic cultures which have inhabited the area in the last 2,000 years.

Edition 3

"Splendidly Stradivarius" 3:33

For nearly three centuries, the name Antonio Stradivari has been synonymous with the sublime art of instrument making. Five surviving Strads currently reside at the Smithsonian, including one prized 'cello from 1701.

"Different Drummers" 3:43

Over the past several decades, a small number of American artists have consistently gone their own way -- steadfastly working outside the many mainstream movements in contemporary art. A group of them came to the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden recently, to open an exhibition of their work.

"The Unseen Smithsonian" 3:43

In spite of its many exhibitions, more than 95 percent of the Smithsonian's holdings are not on view to the public. Many are kept at the Museum Support Center in Suitland, Maryland -- one of the most sophisticated storage and research facilities in the world.

"New Deal Murals" 3:44

Between 1934 and 1943, the U.S. Treasury Department administered a program to decorate government buildings around the country with the work of some of America's most talented artists. At the National Museum of American Art, here's the story of what happened when these artists brought their work to places like Anson, Texas.

Edition 4

"The Common Wealth Of Massachusetts" 3:50
From the cranberry growers of Cape Cod, to the blues singers of Boston, the people of the Bay State display extraordinary ingenuity and respect for tradition.

"Folklife Exchange" 3:38
The Soviet Union encompasses much more than just "Russia." It actually includes 15 republics, and hundreds of different ethnic groups. In an extraordinary exchange, musicians from places like Estonia, Azerbaijan and Siberia came to the US, while Cajun, Afro-American and Native American performers were invited to the USSR.

"New Political Conventions" 3:31
Specialists from the Smithsonian's Division of Political History have just returned from the Democratic and Republican National Conventions with some interesting memorabilia, and some fascinating perspectives on how campaigns have changed in 200 years.

"Antietam Revisited" 3:18
Archeologists and anthropologists from the Smithsonian and the National Park Service have recently uncovered a heretofore unknown burial site on the Antietam Battlefield near Frederick, Maryland. Their findings are helping to fill in the story of this bloody and pivotal battle of the U.S. Civil War.

Edition 5

"Warming Up To Reptiles" 3:18
Few people would call them cuddly, but reptiles are some of the most amazing and beautiful creatures on Earth. With its recently opened Reptile House, the National Zoo is leading the way in understanding and preserving our fine, cold-blooded friends, and presenting them to the visiting public.

"Kalabari Kinetics" 3:23
Nigerian-born sculptor Sokari Douglas Camp has perfected the art of turning twisted steel and electric motors into the very image of festival dancers from her Kalabari tribe. The Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art presents the first North American exhibition of her extraordinary work.

Edition 5 Continued

"Crossroads Of Two Continents" 3:16

Since 1741, explorers from Russia and the United States have been collecting artifacts from the native peoples on both sides of the Bering Strait. Now, the first exhibition ever to be jointly organized by U.S. and Soviet scholars, presents the most complete picture yet of the diverse cultures of this region.

"On The Air" 3:25

From Marconi to Milton Berle, The National Portrait Gallery recounts the early history of radio and television broadcasting through the lives of its pioneers.